

Dear Environmental Educator,

Thanks for your interest regarding your school's participation in the Mercury Reduction and Recycling for Schools Pledge Program. Indiana has recently seen a rash of mercury spills in schools across the state - all associated with costly clean-ups, strong public concern, and obvious health hazards.

We want to help to avoid such a situation from happening at one of your schools. The Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management would like to invite your school corporation to participate in the Mercury Awareness Program (M.A.P.). The offer includes *free* recycling of mercury containing items such as thermometers, barometers, blood pressure gauges, and elemental mercury.

Participation is easy!

- \$ Inventory all mercury containing items in your school buildings.
- \$ Take all unwanted mercury items to your local Solid Waste Management District to have them recycled free of charge. *Ask us if you need to know the proper contact at your Solid Waste Management District.*
- \$ Plan to phase out mercury containing devices and purchase mercury free alternatives when the time comes.
- \$ **Confirm your school's participation by faxing the pledge sheet** (reverse side) back to us at 317-233-6647 and receive statewide recognition as an environmental steward.

Mercury's threat to the environment and to our children cannot be overstated. Children are more vulnerable to mercury poisoning because they have not yet developed the natural barrier that protects the brain and central nervous system. We urge you to remove this danger from your students' environment. **Put your school on the M.A.P., as 43 Indiana schools have done to-date!**

If you have further questions about the Mercury Awareness Program, please do not hesitate to call us. We would also be happy to put you in contact with those schools that already have taken the pledge and look forward to working with your school corporation in making Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.

Questions? Contact:

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